

Message Text

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22-11

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C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 20175

FOR SECRETARY FROM ROGERS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAID, FR

SUBJ: SPECIAL FUND FOR AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT

1. SUMMARY. FROMENT-MEURICE OUTLINED FRENCH POLITICAL REASONS FOR \$1 BILLION NEW FUND, BUT WAS SPARING ON THE DETAILS. THE RESPONSE OF THE OTHERS WHO WERE THERE -- THE BRITISH, THE GERMANS, AND THE BELGIANS -- WAS TEPID. WE SAID WE WERE INTERESTED, ASKED FOR AN AIDE MEMOIRE AND PROMISED A MORE CONSIDERED RESPONSE AS QUICKLY.

2. FROMENT-MEURICE MET WITH STATHAM, GOUK, LAUTENSCHLANGER, FRG, THUYSBAERT OF BELGIUM AND THEIR MINIONS THIS MORNING TO DISCUSS THE GISCARD FUND PROPOSAL. HE WAS LONG ON POLITICAL INCENTIVE, BUT SHORT ON OPERATING DETAILS, EXCEPT FOR A SUGGESTION ABOUT OVERALL AMOUNT.

3. HE HAD CALLED THE FIVE OF US TOGETHER, HE SAID, BECAUSE GISCARD HAD THOUGHT THESE WERE FOR THE MOST PART THE NATIONS WITH HISTORIC LINKS TO AFRICA, AND THE UNITED STATES HAD AN IMPORTANT ROLE TO PLAY BECAUSE OF THE NEW SIGNIFICANCE OF AFRICA TO OUR FOREIGN POLICY.

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THE PURPOSE OF THE GISCARD INITIATIVE WAS THE MAINTENANCE

NANCE OF THOSE REGIMES IN AFRICA WHICH WERE DEDICATED TO THE LIVERTY, DEMOCRACY, AND CIVILIZED VALUES WHICH THOSE AROUND THE TALBE SHARED. IT WOULD BE BEST IF WE COULD WORK TOGETHER IN THE DEVELOPMENT BATTLE IN AFRICA, AND IN DOING SO, DEMONSTRATE THAT TO ALL AFRICANS WESTERN AID AND WESTERN COOPERATION COULD MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN THE STRUGGLE AGAINST HUMAN MISERY. GISCARD HAD PROPOSED AN EFFORT IN FOUR SECTORS: THE DESERT, THE LAND-LOCKED COUNTRIES, THE MODERNIZATION OF AGRICULTURE, AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF MINERAL RESOURCES. OTHER AREAS OF CONCENTRATION COULD BE ADDED.

4. AS TO STRUCTURE, HE SAID, THE GOF SUGGESTED A DOUBLE SYSTEM OF COUNCILS: ONE FOR THE DONORS, THE OTHER FOR THE BENEFICIARIES. THE TWO COUNCILS WOULD ENTER INTO A DIALOGUE TO DETERMINE HOW TO ADMINISTER THE EFFORT. THE TOTAL INITIAL CONTRIBUTION AMONG THE FIVE, FOR A FIVE-YEAR PERIOD, WOULD BE \$1 BILLION, DIVIDED 40 PERCENT FOR THE US, 20 PERCENT EACH FOR FRANCE AND THE FRG, 15 PERCENT FOR THE UK, AND 5 PERCENT FOR BELGIUM. WHETHER OTHER COUNTRIES SHOULD BE INVITED COULD ABIDE THE INITIAL DETERMINATION TO SET UP THE FUND IN THE FIRST PLACE.

5. AS TO THE BENEFICIARIES, IT WAS NOT DESIRABLE TO BE TOO EXPLICIT YET. THE FRENCH PROPOSED TO CONSULT WITH SENGHOR, KENYATTA AND HOUPHET, AS SENIOR STATESMEN, WHO WOULD THEMSELVES TALK TO OTHER AFRICANS, FOR THE FINAL LIST.

6. FACILITIES COULD BE MAINTAINED IN BOTH EUROPE AND AFRICA. BEYOND THAT, THE OPERATIONAL DETAILS COULD EVOLVE THROUGH THE COOPERATIVE EFFORTS OF THE TWO GROUPS.

7. THE UK PUT FORWARD THE FIRST TENTATIVE RESPONSE, ASKING ABOUT THE RELATIONSHIP OF THE PROPOSAL TO THE EUROPEAN DEVELOPMENT FUND. I ASKED WHETHER THE FRENCH INTENDED TO SAY ANYTHING PUBLICLY ABOUT THE MEETING (THE ANSWER WAS NO RPT NO), AND ASKED FOR AN AIDE MEMOIRE. THE USG, I SAID, HAD EXPRESSED AN INTEREST IN CONFIDENTIAL

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THE FRENCH INITIATIVE AND WE WANTED TO GIVE IT THE MOST SERIOUS AND CHARITABLE CONSIDERATION. LAUTENSCHLAGER COMMENTED RATHER MORE BLUNTLY, POINTING OUT THAT THOUGH THE FOREIGN OFFICE COULD UNDERSTAND PERFECTLY THE POLITICAL MOTIVATIONS BEHIND THE FRENCH SUGGESTION, HIS TREASURY COUNTERPARTS MIGHT NOT BE SO EASILY PERSUADED, TO SAY NOTHING OF THE BUNDESTAG. HE WAS FRANKLY PESSIMISTIC THAT ANY REALLY NEW MONEY COULD BE FOUND,

PARTICULARLY IN THE LIGHT OF GERMANY'S CONSIDERABLE PRESENT LEVEL OF CONTRIBUTIONS. HE ALSO THOUGHT THE FUND MIGHT CREATE A PROBLEM IN TERMS OF THE EC MEMBERSHIP DEDICATION TO A COMMON DEVELOPMENT POLICY. THE BELGIANS ALSO HAD SOME DIFFICULTY WITH THE COMPATIBILITY OF THE GISCARD FUND WITH THE COMMON MARKET COMMUNITY COMMITMENTS.

8. EMBOLDENED, STATHAM CAME BACK HARD ONCE AGAIN TO SAY THAT HE TOO THOUGHT IT WOULD BE HARD TO CONTEMPLATE NEW MONEY, AS THE PRIME MINISTER HAD TOLD GISCARD, THOUGH PERHAPS HER MAJESTY'S GOVERNMENT COULD JUGGLE SOME OF ITS PRESENT RESOURCES.

9. FROMENT-MEURICE SAID HE WAS ENCOURAGED BY ALL THIS. NO ONE HAD PARTED COMPANY WITH THE FRENCH POLITICAL ANALYSIS. WHERE THERE'S A WILL THERE'S A WAY, HE SAID. HE PROMISED TO GET THE AIDE MEMOIRE TO ALL OF US; WE AGREED TO SHARE OUR COMMENTS; AND HE EXPRESSED THE NEED FOR SPEED.

10. AFTER THE GENERAL MEETING BROKE UP, I HAD A WORD WITH HIM PRIVATELY. WE WERE INTERESTED, I REPEATED, AND SYMPATHETIC, BUT HE SHOULD UNDERSTAND THAT WE ALSO HAD CONGRESS TO CONTEMPLATE, AND OUR CAPACITY TO PERSUADE, WHILE CONSIDERABLE, WAS NOT INFINITE JUST NOW IN THAT QUARTER. HE IS ANXIOUS TO TALK WITH THE AFRICANS SHORTLY. I TOLD HIM I HOPED WE COULD PUT SOMETHING MORE DELIBERATE AND CONSIDERED INTO HIS HANDS BY AUGUST 1, AND WE TOUCHED ON THE POSSIBILITY THAT WE COULD WORK FURTHER ON IT IN EARLY AUGUST, WHEN I WILL AGAIN BE IN PARIS.

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